

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8911

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COMUSJAPAN FUCHU JAPAN

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS: MARR OCON JA

SUBJ: PROPOSED SECURITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETINGS

REF: TOKYO 16519

SUMMARY: GOJ CONSIDERS THAT BOTH SUBCOMMITTEE AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE HIGHLY DESIRABLE IN JANUARY: SUBCOMMITTEE BECAUSE OF NEED TO EXPLAIN COMPLICATED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CURRENT GOJ BUDGETARY/FISCAL POLICY AND ON-GOING BASE CONSOLIDATION PLANS, AND CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE BECAUSE OF NEED TO FORMALIZE AND PROMULGATE OKINAWA BASE CONSOLIDATION PLAN. SEVERE TIME CONSTRAINTS, HOWEVER, MAKE SCHEDULING EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR BOTH US AND JAPANESE PARTICIPANTS IN MEETINGS. CONSEQUENTLY, GOJ PROPOSES THAT, IF NECESSARY, SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING BE LIMITED TO ONE DAY (EITHER 12 OR 14 OF JAN) AND THAT USG CHOOSE TIME FOR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE PRIOR TO OPENING OF DIET ON JAN 21. AS PRACTICAL MATTER, DATES OF JAN 16 TO 19 ARE AVAILABLE, GOJ PREFERS 17TH.

ACTION REQUESTED: CONCURRENCE IN DATE FOR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

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IN WASHINGTON AND FOR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN TOKYO.

END SUMMARY.

1. AS INDICATED REFTEL, WE APPEAR TO BE CLOSE ENOUGH TOGETHER IN DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING OKINAWA BASE CONSOLIDATION PLAN THAT IT DIFFICULT FOR US TO CONTINUE DELAY CONSIDERATION OF SECURITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE TO ENDORSE FIRST INCREMENT OF THAT PLAN. SINCE REFTEL DISPATCHED, HOWEVER, FONOFF HAS APPROACHED EMBASSY WITH PROPOSAL THAT TIME FOR COMMITTEE MEETING BE SET NOT LATER THAN JAN 19 SINCE DIET SESSION WILL RECONVENE JAN 21. (FONOFF EARLIER IDEA THAT COMMITTEE MEETING COULD BE AS LATE AS END OF JAN WAS PREMISED ON ASSUMPTION THAT CURRENT DIFFICULTIES IN FORMULATING GOJ JFY74 BUDGET WOULD RESULT IN SOME POSTPONEMENT OF SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE IN DIET. NOW, HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT MINFIN FUKUDA HAS SUCCEEDED IN PERSUADING ALL MINISTRIES TO KEEP TO ORIGINAL SCHEDULE FOR BUDGET WORK; AND DIET WILL BEGIN SUBSTANTIVE PROCEEDINGS IMMEDIATELY AFTER RECONVENING.) GOJ WILLING TO CONSIDER ANY DATE FROM JAN 16 TO JAN 19 BUT PREFERS JAN 17. GOJ IS WELL AWARE THAT ALL CONVERSATIONS RESPECTING DATE FOR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ARE CONDITIONED UPON SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OKINAWA BASE CONSOLIDATION DISCUSSIONS.

2. GOJ WISHES ALSO PROCEED WITH MEETING OF SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE IN WASHINGTON IN MID-JAN IN ORDER MAINTAIN MOMENTUM US-JAPAN SECURITY DISCUSSIONS IN VARIOUS FORUMS AND TO MAKE FULL EXPLANATION OF IMPACT OF GOJ BUDGETARY PROBLEMS ON JAPANESE SECURITY RELATED PROGRAMS (JDA PROCUREMENT, SDF 4TH, DBU, AND DFAA PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS FOR US FACILITIES). ACCORDING TO FONOFF, IF SUBCOMMITTEE NOT HELD IN JAN, NEXT AVAILABLE TIME WOULD NOT OCCUR UNTIL LATE SPRING BECAUSE OF DIET. (FYI FONOFF HAS PROMISED TO GIVE EMBASSY PREVIEW OF DRAFT BUDGET FOR DFAA ON MONDAY, DEC 24 AND TO DISCUSS LIKELY IMPACT ON CONSOLIDATION PLANS. THIS DISCUSSION SHOULD GIVE US IDEA OF SCOPE OF PROPOSED SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM COVERING CONSOLIDATION PROGRAMS. END FYI.) FONOFF AWARE THAT WASHINGTON UNABLE CONSIDER SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING PRIOR TO JAN 11. AS SAME TIME, FONOFF ADAMANT THAT GOJ PARTICIPANTS CANNOT REMAIN IN WASHINGTON AS LATE AS JAN 15. ACCORDINGLY, FONOFF SUGGESTS THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO HOLDING ONE-DAY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ON EITHER JAN 12 OR JAN 14, AS OPTION TO ITS RECENT PROPOSAL OF TWO-DAY MEETING JAN 11 AND 12. IN CASE OF ONE-DAY MEETING, GOJ WOULD PREFER TO DEVOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MORNING SESSION TO BROAD ISSUES AND AFTERNOON SESSION TO JAPAN ISSUES, PRIMARILY BASE CONSOLIDATION.

3. COMMENT: CHARGE AND POL/MIL COUNSELOR SEPARATELY HAVE PROBED REPEATEDLY GOJ VIEW OF NECESSITY OF THESE TWO SECURITY MEETINGS AND NECESSITY OF STAGING EITHER OR BOTH IN JANUARY. FONOFF HAS NOT WAVERED IN ITS POSITION THAT RESOLUTION OF OKINAWA BASE CONSOLIDATION QUESTION MUST BE SEEN TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE PRIOR TO OPENING

OF DIET (OKINAWA REVERSION ALREADY IS EIGHTEEN MONTHS OLD), AND THAT FORMAL MEETING OF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE IS NECESSARY PART OF THIS PROCESS. GOJ IS NOT AS INSISTANT ON MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE, AND WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT GOJ WOULD BE WILLING TO FOREGO SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING IF THAT WOULD BE PRICE FOR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. HOWEVER, IN OUR VIEW, SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING CURRENTLY IS OF HIGHER VALUE TO USG SINCE IT WOULD PROVIDE BETTER FORUM AND OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS FULLY RAMIFICATIONS OF BASE CONSOLIDATION PROBLEMS AND ASPECTS OF GOJ BUDGET IMPORTANT TO OUR SECURITY CONCERNS. GOJ, OF COURSE, NOT WILLING SUBSTITUTE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING FOR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE SINCE SUBCOMMITTEE DOES NOT PROVIDE SUITABLE FORMAL OCCASION FOR BLESSING OF BASE PACKAGE.

4. GOJ OFFICIALS ARE IN NO DOUBT THAT CURRENT GOJ PROPOSALS FOR THESE MEETINGS WOULD PRODUCE SUBSTANTIAL INCONVENIENCE FOR USG PARTICIPANTS AND OFFICERS INVOLVED IN PREPARATIONS. THEY ARE AWARE IN PARTICULAR THAT PROPOSALS ARE BEING PRESENTED WITHIN OUR HOLIDAY PERIOD AND THAT IS ONLY WITH EXTREME EFFORT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO RESPOND AT ALL IN TIME TO ALLOW NECESSARY PREPARATIONS TO BE MADE. NEVERTHELESS, THEY ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THESE MEETINGS AND TO THEIR PROPER TIMING.

5. REQUEST WASHINGTON/CINCPAC VIEWS ASAP. MERRY CHRISTMAS.

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